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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
302 Post Office Building, Orlando, Florida

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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1951

FLORIDA

If FLORIDA farmers carry out their present intentions to plant field crops in 1951, the total acreage of corn, oats, peanuts, tobacco, sweet and Irish potatoes, cowpeas and hay will approximate 1,150,000 acres, or about the same as planted in 1950. Cotton, which has been released from acreage control, is not included. Larger acreages of corn, tobacco and cowpeas just about offset smaller plantings of oats, peanuts and potatoes. The corn acreage is expected to be 2 percent larger this year and at 737,000 acres compares with 723,000 planted in 1950. Allotment crops, peanuts and tobacco, follow allotment controls with an increase in flue tobacco and a decrease in peanuts. 20,500 acres of flue tobacco are expected compared with 18,000 in 1950. Shade tobacco acreage in the Georgia-Florida area is expected to total 5,200 acres for 1951. Peanuts planted alone for all purposes are forecast at 190,000 acres for 1951, as against 200,000 for 1950.

Crops are now being seeded under fairly good conditions, although it has been rather dry in the field crop areas during the past 6 weeks.

PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR FLORIDA - 1951

	Average 1940-49		Acreage Planted		
	Acreage Planted	Yield per Planted	1950 Planted	Indicated 1951	1951 as
	Thousands	Acre	Acres	Thousands	Percent of 1950
Corn	718	10.9 Bu.	723	737	102
Oats	104	5.4 Bu.	123	117	95
Tame Hay <u>a/</u>	118	.55 Ton	88	89	101
Irish Potatoes	31.1	141 Bu.	26.4	25.6	97
Sweet Potatoes	17	66 Bu.	15	13	87
Tobacco, all <u>a/</u>	20.1	949 Lb.	22.0	24.6	112
Tobacco, Type 14	16.7	920 Lb.	18.0	20.5	114
Tobacco, Type 62	3.1	1084 Lb.	4.0	4.1	102
Cowpeas	28		27	28	104
Peanuts <u>b/</u>	262		200	190	95

a/ Harvested acreage.

b/ Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.

PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR THE UNITED STATES - 1951

	PLANTED ACREAGES			
	Average	1950	Indicated	1951 as
	1940-49	1950	1951	pct. of 1950
Thousands				
Corn, all	89,481	84,370	85,694	101.6
All spring wheat	18,672	18,509	21,850	118.1
Durum	2,682	2,814	2,894	102.8
Other	15,990	15,695	18,956	120.8
Oats	43,510	46,642	44,191	94.7
Barley	14,281	13,235	11,413	86.2
Flaxseed	4,158	4,064	3,921	96.5
Rice	1,533	1,620	1,931	119.2
Sorghums for all purposes	16,024	16,587	12,540	75.6
Potatoes	2,625	1,866	1,590	85.2
Sweet Potatoes	672	573	444	77.5
Tobacco <u>a/</u>	1,613	1,594	1,745	109.5
Beans, dry edible	2,023	1,632	1,664	102.0
Peas, dry field	508	240	244	101.7
Soybeans, <u>b/</u>	12,266	14,704	13,772	93.7
Cowpeas, <u>b/</u>	2,043	1,089	941	86.4
Peanuts, <u>b/</u>	3,666	2,752	2,614	95.0
Hay, <u>a/</u>	74,845	75,741	75,656	99.9
Sugar Beets	828	1,013	887	87.6

a/ Acreage harvested.

b/ Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.

UNITED STATES

Much uncertainty is apparent in reported plans of farmers for the 1951 crop season. A relatively large acreage of spring planted crops is now in prospect - 275½ million acres for the 17 crops now estimated, compared with 280 million in 1950. However, greater shifts among crops may occur following this report than is usual. A major reason may be shifts toward the Department's acreage guides, details of which generally had not reached individual farmers by March 1. Spring activities were at about usual stages on March 1, but may have been retarded by March storms. Soil moisture is mostly satisfactory, except in a large Southwestern area extending to southern California. Irrigation water supplies are adequate in northern areas, but taper to very poor, especially in New Mexico and Arizona.

Much of the decline from last year in the acreage of the 17 crops currently estimated is offset by the much larger acreage sown to wheat last fall. Furthermore, although cotton acreage is not covered in current reports by farmers nor in the estimates, growers appear to be keeping in mind well-known needs for an increase in the cotton crop. Declines from 1950 acreages are now planned for oats, barley, sorghums, flax, hay, soybeans, potatoes, cowpeas, sweet potatoes, peanuts and sugar beets. Increases are in prospect for corn, spring wheat, rice, tobacco, dry beans and dry peas, all but the last of which were under acreage allotments in 1950.

Comparisons between prospective plantings and the 1951 acreage guides can be made for 11 field crops. However, the guides had only general publicity up to the time farmers reported upon their plans and little was known of their application at the county and individual farm level. Prospective acreages exceed the acreage guides in 5 instances: dry beans and potatoes each by 2 percent, spring wheat by less than 1 percent, rice by 1½ percent and oats by 1 percent. Falling short of the guide acreages are prospective acreages of corn by 5 percent, (4.3 million acres), barley by 14 percent, probable soybeans for beans by about 7 percent, probable sorghum for grain by 5 to 8 percent, sweet potatoes by nearly 23 percent and flaxseed by 2 percent. While some shifts are probable, these comparisons tend to indicate a reluctance among farmers to disrupt their current programs embracing grasslands, small grain operations on the extensive rather than intensive scale, and proven cash crops such as the oilseeds. This is further borne out by the indication that the all hay acreage will be virtually the same as in 1950, with a very slight increase indicated in the North Central region. Acreage allotments for peanuts apparently will be greatly exceeded, inasmuch as the excess acreage may be harvested for oil purposes. For tobacco, despite an increase of 9.5 percent in total acreage, the acreage of each kind under allotment is indicated at less than allotted acreages.

Principal crops planted or grown in 1951 may total nearly 366 million acres, allowing for duplications and numerous crops not yet surveyed, including cotton at the guide acreage. Such a total would be about 8 million acres more than in 1950 and, although 4 million acres less than in 1949, otherwise the largest since 1933. It would mean that most of the acreage not cropped in 1950 would be in use this season.

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